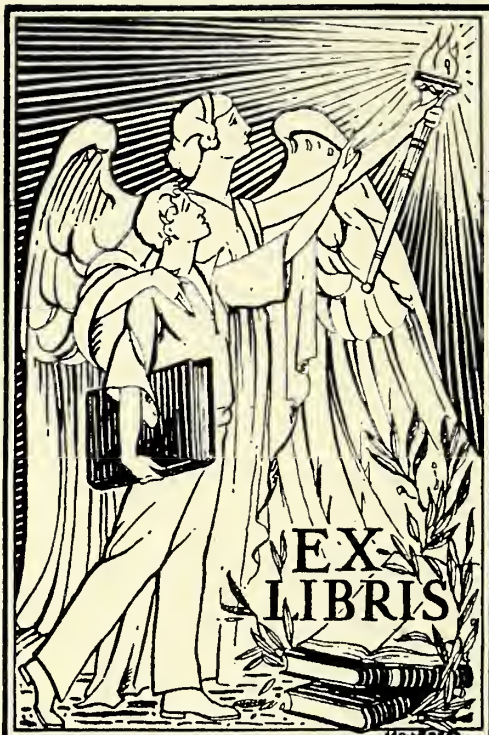


THOUGH BLIND, HIS BEACONS
LIGHT THE SEAS

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THOUGH BLIND, his BEACONS LIGHT *the* SEAS

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A Sightless Inventor Has Given to the World a "Keeperless Lighthouse"

MARINERS the world over have reason to give thanks for the birth November 30, 1869, of Gustav Niels Dalen. Many are the perilous coasts illumined by his genius. From experiments carried on since his youth the "keeperless lighthouse" has emerged—one that tends itself, and burns with steady beam, year on end. Its rays sweep the waters in all weathers and never fail. But Dalen himself is sightless.

The Swedish inventor was working in his laboratory when an explosion blinded him. That was fourteen years ago. He will never see again. Only on the tablets of his wonderful mind is he able to trace his intricate inventions. Perhaps this is not so difficult for him as it would seem. For he was little more than a child when he first began to puzzle over divers ways and means of saving labor.

Constant tinkering with switches, valves, levers, pinions, cranks suggested to this gifted mechanic and ardent student of physics the idea of a self-operating lighthouse, which would entirely do away with human attendants and yet fulfill all the functions of lights demanding a staff of caretakers. This became the chief dream of his life and a few years ago the phantasy became reality.

The Dalen "acetyl lamp," or "Aga light," especially adapted to places difficult of access, is operated by acetylene gas, because with gas no cables or dynamos are necessary. Acetylene burns with a brighter light than any other luminous gas, is not affected by heat or cold and is easily controlled. In every lighthouse equipped with the acetyl lamp, cylinders are installed, each capable of holding a year's supply of fuel.

By Dr. Dalen's method a more inflexible reg-

ularity is assured than by any system operated by human hands. Nature herself is his keeper. The core of the invention is the "sun valve," which contracts in darkness, letting the gas pass to the burner, and expands in daylight, shutting off the flow. A simple apparatus controls the length of the flash.

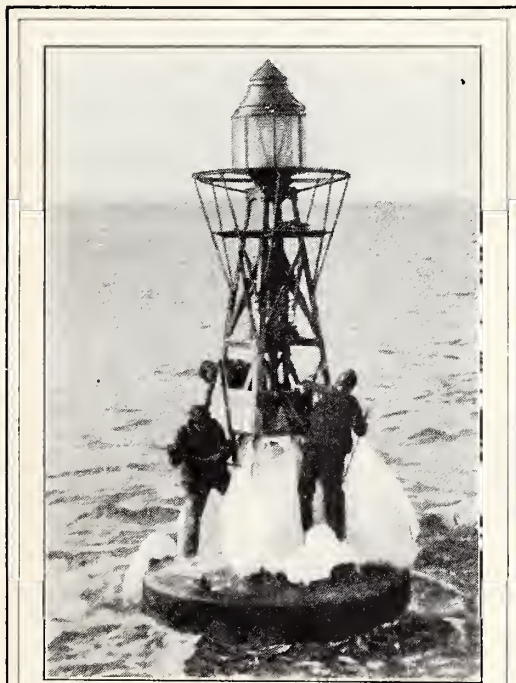
The ingenuity of the inventor also makes it possible to use gas mantles to intensify the light. A mantle exchanger, supplying new mantles for old, is set in motion by the burning of a block of wood, so placed that it catches fire as soon as a rift occurs and a flame shoots down through a broken mantle. A companion mechanism raises a new mantle in place, and the light continues without interruption. Only three or four man-

tles are needed a year, and many more than this number can be stored in the chamber reserved for them.

Dalen lights flash their warning from widely scattered spots on the coasts and inland waters of the United States and in foreign countries as far away as Australia and Japan. Among the largest towers equipped with the automatic light are those that guard points on the Panama and the Suez Canals. Several have been placed on mountain peaks as beacons for night flyers. Railroads use the signals.

The inventor, a man of modest nature, has been awarded a Nobel Prize for his contribution to science and humanity. Despite his infirmity he is constantly engaged in experiments at his Stockholm factory. The traffic signals of London are his and the street-

lighting system used in the Swedish capital. Though his days are passed in darkness the eyes of his wonder-working lights set a never-failing watch on lanes of sea, air and land.



Courtesy American Gas Accumulator Company

DALEN LIGHT ON AMBROSE CHANNEL BUOY

At the mouth of Lower New York Bay, on the main transatlantic steamer route. Hundreds of acetylene gas lights of the Dalen system have been installed by the United States Lighthouse Service

scholar, and it was quite characteristic of him that he should energetically master Chinese. He had absolutely no sympathy with orthographers, believing that they had so garbled the spelling of words and word roots as to interfere with the substantiation of his ideas.

Aboundingself-confidence convinced the amazing man he could do everything with the same genius with which he wrote. Painting beautiful landscapes with words, he essayed to paint fair scenes in oil. But in other fields of accomplishment he was not exceptional. He dabbled in physics and chemistry, effecting a very amusing experiment in the latter. It was the ordinary schoolboy experiment of reducing cuprous oxide by driving off the oxygen and finding the residue to contain copper by pounding it in a mortar with a pestle until the tiny globules of copper shine.

Strindberg swore that the residue in *his* experiment must be gold. Nothing would do but it must go to the Government bureau of metals and be assayed. Expert analysis showed only copper. He still swore that it must be gold and the bureau must be wrong. Others might find copper; his was surely gold.



HARRIET BOSSE

Third wife of Strindberg. The picture shows her dressed for a part she played in one of her husband's dramas

These small things show us the attitude of the man toward the world. He was always unhappy and discontented with himself, thinking that everyone was against him and persecuting him.

He said of himself, "I am an illegitimate child, born at the time the affairs of a bankrupt family were being liquidated and the family was in mourning for an uncle who had committed suicide. There you have the family. What fruit can you expect of such a tree?"

On one occasion he ordered from Strandmann a set of "Larousse Illustré," the well-known French dictionary in twelve volumes. Soon after he wrote saying that the illustrations were not perfect and ordering a second set. This also he claimed to be imperfect and upon the arrival of the third set wrote an angry letter saying that the last set was worse than the others and he was sure they were doing this only to provoke him. In despair Herr Strandmann called personally and found him in his study with huge piles of the great volumes stacked up around him like cathedrals and pyramids. He explained that they had been particularly careful in ordering each set and were very sorry that the slight imperfection had occurred (he tactfully did not say that there was nothing the matter with any of the books). Strindberg accepted the apology with the majesty of a king from his throne of dictionaries and would hear nothing of the offer to take them back. "I will keep them all," he said, "and try to make *one* good set from them."

Similar peculiarities of the man were many. Most characteristic of all was his fanatical hatred of women. Youthful volumes of sketches had as a major theme the disastrous effect of what he was pleased to call their selfishness and immorality. Two successive collections of stories, both titled "Married," further assailed feminism. An autobiographical novel, "Son of a Servant," dwells on this uncontrolled antagonism, but does little to explain how a man of such bitter antipathies should three times voluntarily have put his head in the marital noose.

One wonders, too, how he found it possible so readily to persuade young and attractive women to accept him as a husband. His brutality was a scandal, his domestic behavior inexcusable and abhorrent. None of his marriages was successful. He separated from each of his three wives, the last of whom was the Swedish actress, Harriet Bosse.

Measured by all normal standards, Strindberg was certainly one of the queerest personages that ever lived.



Keystone View

THE MAN AND THE LIGHT

Dr. Gustav Dalen, Sweden's sightless genius, and his perfected invention, the lighthouse "sun valve" mechanism. By means of this unique automatic contrivance, which won for the inventor a Nobel Prize, remote and perilous coasts are adequately equipped with beacons whose upkeep and operation would otherwise entail untold hardship and expense. The *Aeg* light is known to every seaman, railroad man and aviator. Though handicapped by blindness, caused by a laboratory explosion, Dr. Dalen continued his experiments and attends daily to the exacting affairs of his important manufacturing plant in Stockholm

The Famous WEDGWOOD "PAPER DOLL PATTERNS"



WEDGWOOD'S "PRIZE
TEAPOT"

The ornamentation is the popular Templetown pattern, "Domestic Employment"

JOSIAH WEDGWOOD had a curious niggardly trait that did not agree at all with his many commendable characteristics. Throughout his long life as a producer of supremely beautiful pottery he refused to make acknowledgment of the invaluable contribution of the sculptors who made the graceful and delicate ornamentation that distinguishes his blue and white jasper ware. John Flaxman, in his time the best sculptor England had; the Hoskins brothers; other English, Italian and French artists; all did work for him—Flaxman for many years—but no tribute was ever paid to them by word or in print, with one exception, and that exception was the gifted and beautiful Lady Templetown. To her "exquisite taste universally acknowledged" Wedgwood made reference in his last catalogue, published one hundred and forty years ago.

The signature of the designer never appeared on the decorated pieces turned out by the Wedgwood works, but anyone who has had opportunity to see a number of typical pieces bearing this famous pet-

By GENE
BERTON

Pastel portrait of Elizabeth, wife of Baron Templetown, by John Russell, R. A.



tery mark will recall vases, teapots, medallions adorned with the composition called "Domestic Employment," showing a girl with distaff and two children. The design, with slight variations, repeatedly appears on Wedgwood products, past and present; none is more popular. This and

many other familiar decorations are the work of Elizabeth, daughter of an English baronet, Sir William Brouhton, and wife of Baron Templetown of County Antrim, Ireland.

The pattern of Lady Templetown's industrious maiden and her two small, ever-constant, companions was chosen by discerning, peg-legged old Josiah Wedgwood for the jasper teapot that is appraised by connoisseurs as the finest piece of its kind that ever came from his knowing hands.

Lady Templetown drew with pen and ink; she painted and she modeled; but her usual method of reproducing the airy creatures of her im-



IN THE WEDGWOOD ROOM
At the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Bno-Dart INDUSTRIES

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Made in U.S.A.

